



17-Month Extension Guide

I. OVERVIEW

Students participating in post-completion Optional Practical Training in certain science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields are eligible to apply for a one-time, 17-month extension of their OPT. This is known as the 17-month extension.

II. ELIGIBILITY

You can apply for the 17-month extension if:

- a) **You are currently participating in valid post-completion Optional Practical Training.**
- b) **You are within 120 days of your EAD card's end date (but not after that date).**
- c) **Your major (listed on your I-20) is approved for the 17-month extension. Your major CIP code is located on the top of page three of your I-20. Check the list of approved majors here: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stem-list.pdf>.**
- d) **You have been unemployed for less than 90 days during your OPT period.**
- e) **Your employer participates in e-Verify and has an e-Verify number.**

III. TO APPLY

1. Inform an international student and scholar advisor that you are interested in applying for the 17-month extension. You can contact ISSS via email at iss@kent.edu.
2. **Complete Form I-765**, Application for Employment Authorization, found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-765.pdf>. If you are unsure of any answers, contact iss@kent.edu so that we can offer you guidance. For instance, the code for question 16 is (c)(3)(C) and you **must** include your employer's e-Verify information in question 17.
3. You will be mailing your own completed application packet to USCIS. The address depends on the state in which you live. Check here to find the correct address for your state: <http://1.usa.gov/PjQJW>. You must file the application packet within 30 days of the requested extension.

The completed application packet looks like this:

- a) A copy of your passport biographical page
- b) A copy of your most recent U.S. visa
- c) A copy of the front and back of your I-94 card; if you have recently left and reentered the U.S., you will need to visit this website to print a copy of your I-94: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html>
- d) New I-20 that shows 17-month extension request (created by ISSS – send copy and keep original)
- e) Copy of current EAD card and any other documents demonstrating OPT approval
- f) Copy of your diploma or a transcript that shows you completed your degree
- g) An original check or money order, made out to "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" for \$380
- h) Two 2" x 2" passport-style photos taken within the last 30 days
- i) The completed Form I-765, found here: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-765.pdf>

NOTE: You are able to work for up to 180 days past your EAD card's end date, if you have applied for the 17-month extension and your extension is still pending. You cannot apply for a 17-month extension once your EAD card's end date has passed.